

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as preliminarily amended is respectfully requested. This preliminary amendment responds to the rejections made in the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002 in the parent application.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,810 of Gerszberg et al. ("Gerszberg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,687,015 of Abe ("Abe").

Claims 16-18 and 60 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that claims 16-18 and 60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 13 has been canceled. Claim 16 has been amended to become an independent claim that includes the limitations of the previous base claim 13. It is submitted that the amendment of claim 16 does not add new matter.

It is respectfully submitted that all the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. Claim 13 has been canceled. Claim 16 has been amended to become an independent claim. Claims 17 and 60 depend from amended claim 16, which is now an independent claim. Claim 18 depends from claim 17.

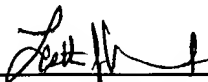
Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

If there are any additional charges not covered by any checks submitted, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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